



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Chairman Jerome E. Horton**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Los Angeles**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 30, 2012**

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## **California Gasoline Demand Rose 3.3 Percent in May, Fuel Tax Data Says Prices Spiked to \$4.35 a Gallon in May**

**Sacramento** – California's gasoline demand rose 3.3 percent in May as prices hit \$4.35 per gallon, according to fuel tax data released by Chairman Jerome E. Horton of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE). Diesel consumption increased 7.1 percent in May. (*See chart for month-over-month monthly gasoline and diesel consumption comparisons.*)

"Months of high gas prices have hit family budgets hard and might be leading to long-term changes in consumption habits," said Horton.

BOE's fuel tax report showed Californians consumed [1.28 billion gallons](#) of gasoline in May, a 3.3 percent increase from the 1.24 billion during the same period last year. However, during the first five months of 2012, California gasoline consumption changed little from the first five months of 2011 (a 0.1 percent increase) despite a growing population and more people commuting to work. In California, average gasoline prices were up 12 cents to \$4.35 in May, a 2.9 percent increase compared to last May's average price according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#).

California's [diesel consumption](#) was 228 million gallons in May, up 15 million gallons or 7.1 percent from a year ago. During the first five months of 2012, diesel consumption squeezed up 1.2 percent, matching the average increase of 2011. California's average diesel prices were down 5 cents to \$4.32 per gallon in May.

Nationally, the [EIA](#) reports regular gasoline averaged \$3.79 a gallon, down 17 cents from May of last year. The [EIA](#) diesel retail prices reported the national average price of diesel was down 7 cents, to \$3.98 from a year earlier.

The BOE Chief Economist reports in the [Economic Perspective](#) (August 2012) that despite the economic stresses during the decade between 2000 and 2010, including an 86 percent increase in gasoline prices, U.S. household spending jumped 27 percent. Spending on gasoline increased significantly for all households, a minimum of \$378 for the lowest-earning households, and up to a maximum of \$1,187 for the top-earning households.

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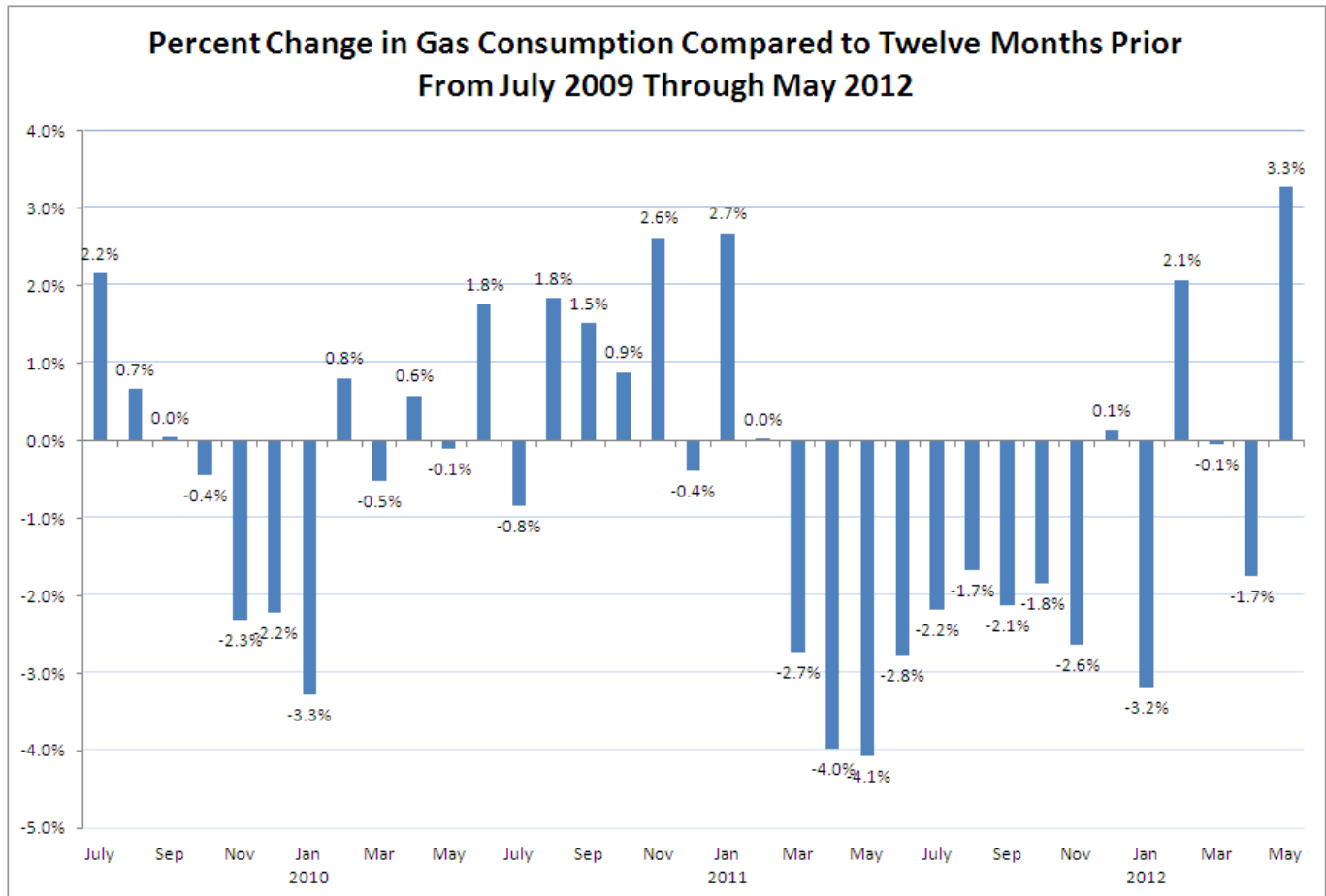


California gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption that includes audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns and the State Controller's Office refunds. The information is based on fuel tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the fuel reports at the end of each month.

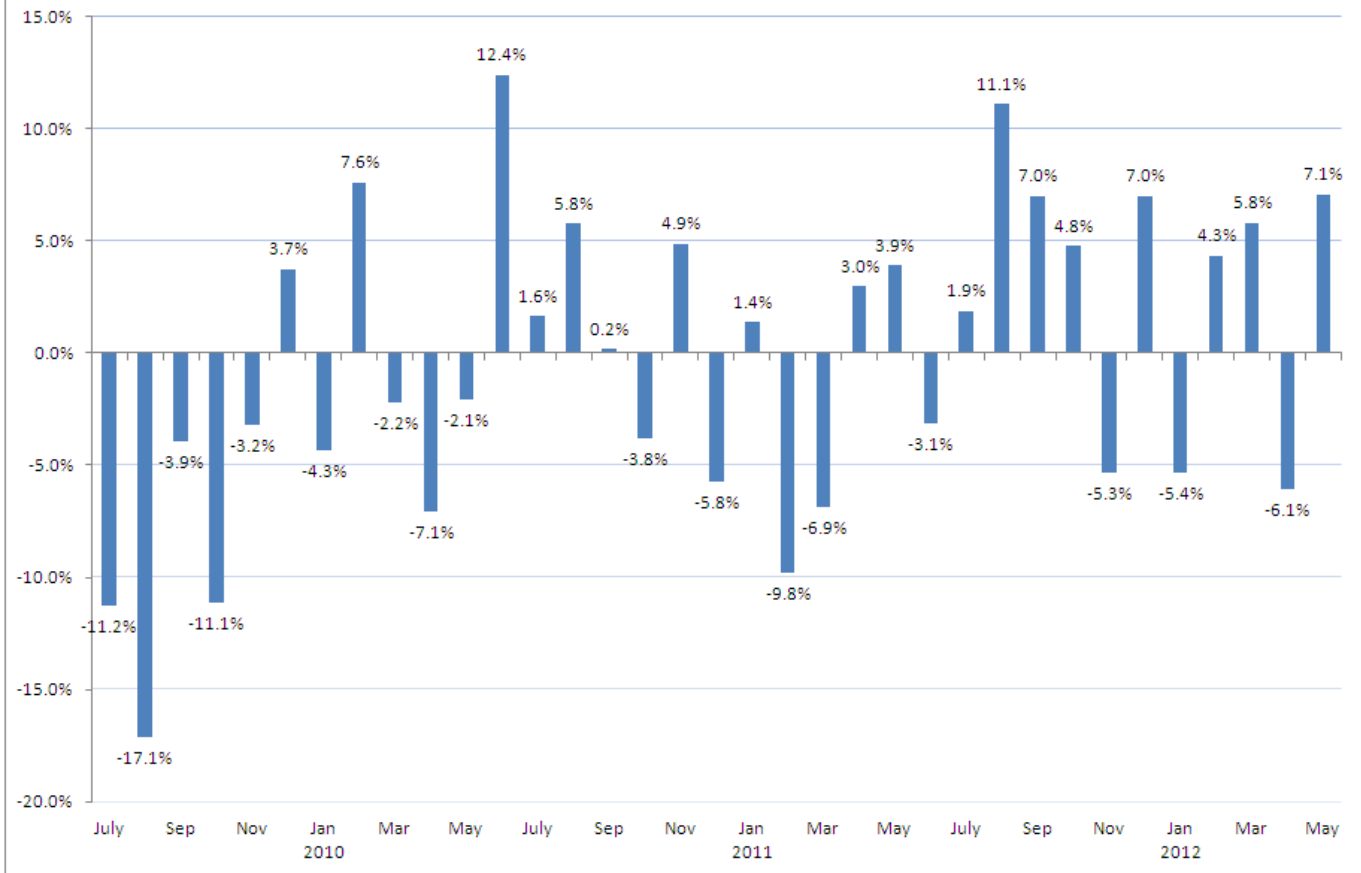
California Fuel Statistics and Reports [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm)

State Taxable Gasoline Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf)

State Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)



## Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through May 2012



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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization Legislative Committee's Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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